

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05050 031605Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 /021 W
-----076244 040643Z /20

R 031555Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7898

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USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD/BOWIE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, BDIS, EAGR, GE
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL AVIATION IN THE GDR

REF: USDOC 13430

1. IN 1976, THE GDR USED AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES OVER 3.26 MILLION HECTARES OF CROPLAND INCLUDING SPREADING NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER (1,541,000 HECTARES), DUSTING CROPS (1,525,000 HECTARES), AND SEEDING AND FIREFIGHTING (194,000 HECTARES). 1978 GDR PLANS CALL FOR USE OF AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT OVER 4.2 MILLION HECTARES OF CROPLAND OF WHICH APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER WILL ACCOUNT FOR 1.6 MILLION HECTARES.

2. ACCORDING TO GDR STATISTICS, THE GDR'S AGRICULTURAL AIRFLEET CONSISTS OF 175 CZECH BUILT Z-37 AIRCRAFT WITH A PAYLOAD CAPACITY OF 550 KILOGRAMS AND 9 SOVIET BUILT KA-26 HELICOPTERS. IN 1978 THE GDR ACQUIRED 2 POLISH BUILT PZL-106/A AIRCRAFT FOR TESTING AND PLANS COMMERCIAL INTRODUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT IN 1979. IN CONTRAST TO THE SINGLE-SEAT Z-37, THE PZL-106/A WILL REPORTEDLY REQUIRE A TWO-MAN CREW FOR AGRICULTURAL

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OPERATIONS. THE GDR'S AGRICULTURAL AIRFLEET IS OPERATED AS PART OF INTERFLUG, THE GDR STATE AIRLINE.

3. IN 1978, SOVIET PILOTS FLYING AS MANY AS 66 AN-2 AIRCRAFT AND 3 MI-1 HELICOPTERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DROPPED NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER ON 400,000 HECTARES OF CROPLAND, OR ONE-FOURTH OF THE TOTAL AREA PLANNED TO

BE FERTILIZED BY AIR. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON PILOTS OR PLANES FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE SOVIET UNION OPERATING IN THE GDR OR OF GDR AGRICULTURAL FLIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. POINT OF COMMERCIAL CONTACT FOR AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT IS TECHNOCOMMERZ GMBH, 108 BERLIN, JOHANNES DIECKMANN STR. 11/13, TELEX 011 4861. INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO ATTENTION OF HERBERT FISCHER, DIRECTOR FOR IMPORT.

5. DESPITE PLANS TO INTRODUCE THE PZL-106/A, EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY HEARD THAT THE GDR IS NEGOTIATING WITH TRANSAVIA OF SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, FOR THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT. TRANSAVIA IS LOOKING TOWARDS THE POSSIBLE CASH SALE OF 100 AIRCRAFT BY 1980 AND IS COUNTING ON THE SMALLER SIZE AND GREATER MANEUVERABILITY OF THEIR CRAFT RELATIVE TO THE PZL-106/A TO CLOSE DEAL. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, FERTILIZERS, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN05050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-0784
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780899/aaaadflm.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f05366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1840946
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRICULTURAL AVIATION IN THE GDR
TAGS: BTIO, BDIS, EAGR, GC, US, UR
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f05366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014